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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Russell A. Firestone et al.

Confirmation No.: 1735

Application No. : 10/821,849

Group Art Unit: 3629

Filed : April 12, 2004

Examiner: Not yet assigned

For : PROCESSING OF DOCUMENTS WITH MEDICAL AND OTHER WASTE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (b)(3)

Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is directed to the 6 cited references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08a. No representation is made or intended that more relevant information does not exist or that the order of presentation of the information in any way reflects its relative pertinence. Copies of the references are being submitted herewith, unless they are U.S. Patents, U.S. published applications or co-pending U.S. applications.

Applicant respectfully requests that each of the cited references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the cited references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

It is believed that this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits. Thus, no certification or fee would be required.

Please credit or debit Deposit Account No. 50-2228 as needed to ensure consideration of the disclosed information.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/30/04

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)		Complete if Known			
		Application Number	10/821,849		
		Filing Date	April 12, 2004		
		First Named Inventor	Russell A. Firestone et al.		
		Art Unit	3629		
		Examiner Name	Unassigned		
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	21867.104PTUS

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number - Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US- 5,270,000	12/14/1993	GOLDNER et al.	
		US- 5,529,687	06/25/1996	MERTSCH	
		US- 5,624,419	04/29/1997	ERSEK et al.	
		US- 5,661,031	08/26/1997	MURPHY et al.	
		US- 5,744,688	04/28/1998	VANCE et al.	
		US- 5,932,173	08/03/1999	VANCE et al.	
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials *	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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